

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 4-6, 15 and 16 are now pending in the application, with Claims 15 and 16 being independent. Claims 1-3 and 7-14 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended and Claims 15 and 16 have been added herein.

Although Claims 3-7, 9 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 8 and 10 recite allowable subject matter. These claims were objected to for being dependent upon rejected base claims. Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of the § 103 rejections, independent Claim 15 has been presented to include the features of Claims 3 and 7 and allowable Claim 8. Claim 16 has been presented to include the features of Claims 3 and 9 and allowable Claim 10. Accordingly, Claims 15 and 16 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 4 and 5 have been amended so that they and Claim 6 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 15 or 16 and are believed to be allowable for at least their dependence thereon. The remaining claims have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Thus, Claims 4-6, 15 and 16 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by Claims 4-6, 15 and 16 and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and

rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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